

GEORGE W. MATTHEWS HOUSE

CORNER OF WEST GREEN AND PARK STREET

Double houses are not uncommon in Westminster, but one like this building, situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of Park and West Green Streets in Westminster, is. It is a building composed of two equally important perpendicular sections, one fronting Park Street and Belle Grove Square, the other fronting West Green Street. This makes the building superb for its important intersection site, and the buildings reflect, in their design, the street that each one looks out to. For example, that facing Green Street is older and more conservative. (As are the other buildings on that street), while that facing the Park is a bit gayer as befits a house that looks onto trees and fountains.

Although there is some mystery to the place, this may well have been probably the home of George W. Matthews who, in the 1870's laid out the area around Belle Grove Square, and had it annexed to the City, donating the park as a public recreation site. Matthews (a Carroll County Grosvenor) bought the place from John B. Boyle on August 24, 1866 (Carroll County Deed Book 33, Page 409).

The section of the present building facing Green Street is probably the older of the two, as it appears on the 1876 plat of the City, and Matthews is listed as living here in the 1881 City Directory. However, the exact date of the newer Park Avenue section is unclear, as it is unclear just why it was built there. Nevertheless, the present pile serves well, if a bit heavy handedly, to fill this intersection site.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR 477
PAGE #0204175504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

George W. Matthews House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of West Green and Park Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Louis K. Woodward

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 152

Folio #: 125

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CARR-477

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Double houses are not uncommon in Westminster, but one like this building, situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of Park and West Green Streets in Westminster, is. It is a building composed of two equally important perpendicular sections, one fronting Park Street and Belle Grove Square, the other fronting West Green Street. This makes the building superb for its important intersection site, and the buildings reflect, in their design, the street that each one looks out to. For example, that facing Green Street is older and more conservative. (As are the other buildings on that street), while that facing the Park is a bit gayer as befits a house that looks onto trees and fountains.

The Green Street building is four bays long by two bays deep and consists of one gable-roofed section. It sits on a high brick basement. There is a centrally placed small flat-roofed porch which is latticed over the basement; it has a single flight of wooden steps rising from the west. On either side of the porch is a four light basement window simply enframed and topped by a 3 course gauged flat arch. The porch itself is supported by simple square posts with a row of spindels running at their tops: a ship's wheel motif marks the intersection of the post with a spindel row. A simple wooden cornice tops the porch. The porch shelters the entrance door and one window. The door consists of 12 glass panels and is simply enframed. To the east of the door are two double-hung sash windows with 6/6 panes. Windows have white wooden sills and heavy denticulated, two part entablatures above, entablatures supported by small brackets. Louvered shutters flank the windows. To the east of the porch was probably originally a similar window; later changes, as evidenced by the altered brick, resulted in a small two light casement window. However, the entablature is still present. Above are four fairly regular spaced 6/6 windows which resemble the two on the western ground story in that they only have architrave tops. A denticulated bracketed two-part entablature runs across this facade below the rolled tin gable roof. The east facade, laid in the same 9 course common bond as the main facade, has one 6/6 flat gauged arched window on each of its two floors located to the north. A two-tier wooden porch runs across the rear of this building, and the skyline is created by two, large, brick, corbel-capped chimneys one at the extreme east of the building flush with the wall, the other more centrally located; each chimney rises at the gable roof's peak.

The porch begun on the Green Street building, is continued around on three sides of the other section with identical treatment, except that the roof becomes hipped. The

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although there is some mystery to the place, this may well have been probably the home of George W. Matthews who, in the 1870's laid out the area around Belle Grove Square, and had it annexed to the City, donating the park as a public recreation site. Matthews (a Carroll County Grosvenor) bought the place from John B. Boyle on August 24, 1866 (Carroll County Deed Book 33, Page 409).

The section of the present building facing Green Street is probably the older of the two, as it appears on the 1876 plat of the City, and Matthews is listed as living here in the 1881 City Directory. However, the exact date of the newer Park Avenue section is unclear, as it is unclear just why it was built there. Nevertheless the present pile serves well, if a bit heavy handedly, to fill this intersection site: the older house, a fine five bay western transplanted central Maryland farmhouse, runs flush with Green Street, and the more open porched and gabled addition, clearly runs along the Park Avenue facade. As noted in the description it's fitting that the Park Avenue side get this more open building.

Mathias sold lots 28 and 29 of his addition to Samuel Shunk for \$2550 on September 30, 1885 (Carroll County Deed Book 62, Page 54), and Shunk sold to William B. Thomas for \$1800 on May 8, 1901 (93/58). Thomas must have been a better businessman than Shunk or it was he who built the Park Avenue house, for when he sold the same lots 28 and 29 four years later Ezra C. Brown, Brown paid \$3500 for them (Deed dated January 16, 1905, 100/490). Brown kept title 14 years until December 31, 1919 when he sold to Theodore F. Englar (135/229), who sold part of the lot, measuring 140' x 970', to Louis K. Woodward on February 6, 1929 (152/123).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Consisting of the northern 48' of lots 28 and 29 of G. W. Matthews Addition to Westminster as shown on a plat recorded among the Real Estate and Mortgage Records of Carroll County in Book 3, Page 55.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

August, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

other section makes good use of its corner location having its entire roof consists of 3 broad gables each with broad two light dormer windows: one looking to the park, one looking to Green Street and one looking to Park Avenue. Dormers are covered with imbricated shutters. Below, the house is somewhat less interesting. It consists of two 1/1 windows on the second story facing the park with one centrally placed the gable to the north and south. The ground story matches it in bay treatment except, of course, in the ground story entrance which is located to the south; it consists of a simply enframed half glass and half boarded door.

450/0



45⁰/₀

G-6

477
CANN ~~100~~
George Mathews Home
1 Park Ave. Westminster
N. facade
C. Weeks 6/77



CARR-477

CARR 477

1 Park Ave.

Westminster

W. Jacobs

C. Wecker 6/77